

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as is shown below.  
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1– 38. (Cancelled).

39. (New) A method for providing a communications service feature to a party communicating through a network, comprising:

determining, by a communications switch, whether the party is a subscriber of the communications service feature based on an identifier associated with the party and a first database containing a subset of subscriber identifiers;

verifying, by the communications switch, that the identifier associated with the party is in a subset of subscriber identifiers that would be included in the first database if the party is a subscriber;

querying, by the communications switch, a second database containing all of the subscriber identifiers to determine whether the party is a subscriber when the identifier associated with the party is not in the first database and is not in the subset of subscriber identifiers that would be included in the first database if the party is a subscriber; and

providing the communications service feature if the party is a subscriber.

40. (New) The method of claim 39,  
wherein the network is a public switched telephone network.

41. (New) The method of claim 40,

wherein the identifier associated with the party and the subscriber identifiers are telephone numbers.

42. (New) The method of claim 41,

wherein the communications service feature is positive call processing.

43. (New) The method of claim 41,

wherein the first database stores subscriber telephone numbers for a plurality of area codes, and the subset of subscriber identifiers that would be included in the first database if the party is a subscriber includes subscriber telephone numbers having one of the plurality of area codes.

44. (New) The method of claim 43,

wherein subscriber telephone numbers that are not stored in the first database and that do not have one of the plurality of area codes represent calls that are not associated with a specified geographic region.

45. (New) The method of claim 41,

wherein the determining uses an automatic number identification trigger table stored in the communications switch.

46. (New) The method of claim 43,

wherein the verifying uses an access number plan area table stored in the communications switch.

47. (New) The method of claim 42,

wherein the communications service feature is provided by a provider, and

wherein the providing further includes verifying that the provider controls information for billing the party, and

wherein providing positive call processing is performed if the party is a subscriber and the provider controls the information for billing the party.

48. (New) The method of claim 47,

wherein verifying that the provider controls the information for billing the party is based on a transaction capabilities part begin message from a number 4 electronic switching system switch.

49. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising:

determining whether a wireless telephone number for which the communications service feature is to be provided is associated with the party,

wherein providing the communications service feature is performed when the wireless telephone number for which the communications service feature is to be provided is associated with the party and the party is a subscriber.

50. (New) The method of claim 49,

wherein determining whether the wireless telephone number for which the communications service is to be provided is associated with the party is based on an information indicator/originating line information code indicating type 2A access.

51. (New) An apparatus for providing a communications service feature to a party communicating through a network, comprising:

a communications switch that determines whether the party is a subscriber of the communications service feature based on an identifier associated with the party and a first database containing a subset of subscriber identifiers, that verifies the identifier associated with the party is in a subset of subscriber identifiers that would be included in the first database if the party is a subscriber, that queries a second database containing all of the subscriber identifiers to determine whether the party is a subscriber when the identifier associated with the party is not in the first database and is not in the subset of subscriber identifiers that would be included in the first database,

wherein the communications service feature is provided if the party is a subscriber.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 51,

wherein the network is a public switched telephone network.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 52,

wherein the identifier associated with the party and the subscriber identifiers are telephone numbers.

54. (New) The apparatus of claim 53,

wherein the communications service feature is positive call processing.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 53,

wherein the first database stores subscriber telephone numbers for a plurality of area codes, and the subset of subscriber identifiers that would be included in the first database if the party is a subscriber are subscriber telephone numbers having one of the plurality of area codes.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 55,

wherein the telephone numbers that are not in the first database and that do not have one of the plurality of area codes represent wireless calls.

57. (New) The apparatus of claim 53,

wherein the communications switch uses an automatic number identification trigger table stored in the communications switch.

58. (New) The apparatus of claim 55,

wherein the communications switch uses an access number plan area table stored in the communications switch.

59. (New) The apparatus of claim 54,

wherein the communications service feature is provided by a provider, and

wherein the provider verifies that the provider controls information for billing the party,  
and

wherein providing positive call processing is performed if the party is a subscriber and  
the provider controls the information for billing the party.

60. (New) The apparatus of claim 59,

wherein verifying that the provider controls the information for billing the party is based  
on a transaction capabilities part begin message from the communications switch.

61. (New) The apparatus of claim 56,

wherein the provider provides the communications service feature when a wireless  
telephone number for which the communications service feature is provideable is determined to  
be associated with the party and the party is a subscriber.

62. (New) The apparatus of claim 61,

wherein determining that the wireless telephone number for which the communications  
service feature is provideable is associated with the party is based on an information  
indicator/originating line information code indicating type 2A access.

63. (New) A system for determining whether a party communicating through a public  
switched telephone network is a subscriber of a communications service feature, comprising:

a communications switch serving a plurality of area codes, comprising:

an area code database containing each of the plurality of area codes, and

a first database containing a subset of subscriber telephone numbers each having one of the plurality of area codes;  
a second database containing all of the subscriber telephone numbers; and  
a processor in communication with the communications switch and the second database, wherein the processor queries the second database to determine if the party is a subscriber when a telephone number associated with the party is not in the first database and an area code associated with the party is not in the area code database.

64. (New) The system of claim 63,

wherein the communications service feature is positive call processing.

65. (New) The system of claim 64,

wherein the first database is an automatic number identification trigger table.

66. (New) The system of claim 65,

wherein the area code database is an access number plan area table.

67. (New) The system of claim 65,

wherein the communications service feature is provided by a provider and the processor verifies that the provider controls information for billing the party.

68. (New) The system of claim 67,

wherein the processor determines whether a wireless telephone number for which the communications service feature is provideable is associated with the party.

69. (New) The system of claim 68,

wherein the processor determines whether the wireless telephone number for which the communications service feature is provideable is associated with the party based on an information indicator/originating line information code indicating type 2A access.

70. (New) A method for providing a communications service feature to a party communicating through a network, comprising:

determining, by a communications switch, whether the party is a subscriber of the communications service feature based on a telephone number associated with the party and a first database containing a subset of subscriber telephone numbers based on area codes associated with the subscriber telephone numbers;

verifying, by the communications switch, that the telephone number associated with the party has an area code such that the telephone number would be included in the first database if the party is a subscriber;

querying, by the communications switch, a second database containing all of the subscriber telephone numbers to determine if the party is a subscriber when the telephone number associated with the party represents a call that is not associated with a specified geographic region, is not in the first database and is not in the subset of telephone numbers that would be included in the first database; and

providing the communications service feature if the party is a subscriber.



71. (New) The method of claim 70,

wherein the network is a public switched telephone network.

72. (New) The method of claim 71,

wherein the communications service feature is positive call processing.

73. (New) An apparatus for providing a communications service feature to a party communicating through a network, comprising:

a communications switch that determines whether the party is a subscriber of the communications service feature based on a telephone number associated with the party and a first database containing a subset of subscriber telephone numbers based on area codes associated with the subscriber telephone numbers, that verifies that the telephone number associated with the party has an area code such that the telephone number would be included in the first database if the party is a subscriber, that queries a second database containing all of the subscriber telephone numbers to determine if the party is a subscriber when the telephone number associated with the party represents a call that is not associated with a specified geographic region, is not in the first database and is not in the subset of telephone numbers that would be included in the first database,

wherein the communications service feature is provided if the party is a subscriber.

74. (New) The apparatus of claim 73,

wherein the network is a public switched telephone network.

75. (New) The apparatus of claim 74,

wherein the communications service feature is positive call processing.